

ASIAN GIANT HORNET STAKEHOLDER UPDATE #14 – OCTOBER 12, 2020

- [New detections](#)
- [Second live Asian giant hornet capture and tagging event](#)
- [We still need Asian giant hornet reports](#)
- [New public data dashboard](#)
- [Update from Canada](#)
- [Emergency hive attack hotline, for Washington beekeepers only](#)

Many of the activities covered in this update were discussed in WSDA's virtual press conference last week. However, we wanted to include them in this written format for those who may not have seen last week's virtual update.

NEW DETECTIONS

OCTOBER 2 – BLAINE

An Asian giant hornet was found in a WSDA kill trap placed near the area of the previous week's detections.

OCTOBER 5 – BLAINE

A resident captured a live Asian giant hornet flying on their property. The hornet was kept alive and given to WSDA to help us track the hornet back to its nest. The capture was at the same location as the previous week's detections.

OCTOBER 9 – BLAINE

An Asian giant hornet was found in a WSDA kill trap near Blaine. This detection was due south of the initial 2019 report of an Asian giant hornet that WSDA received last December. Live traps are being deployed in the area.

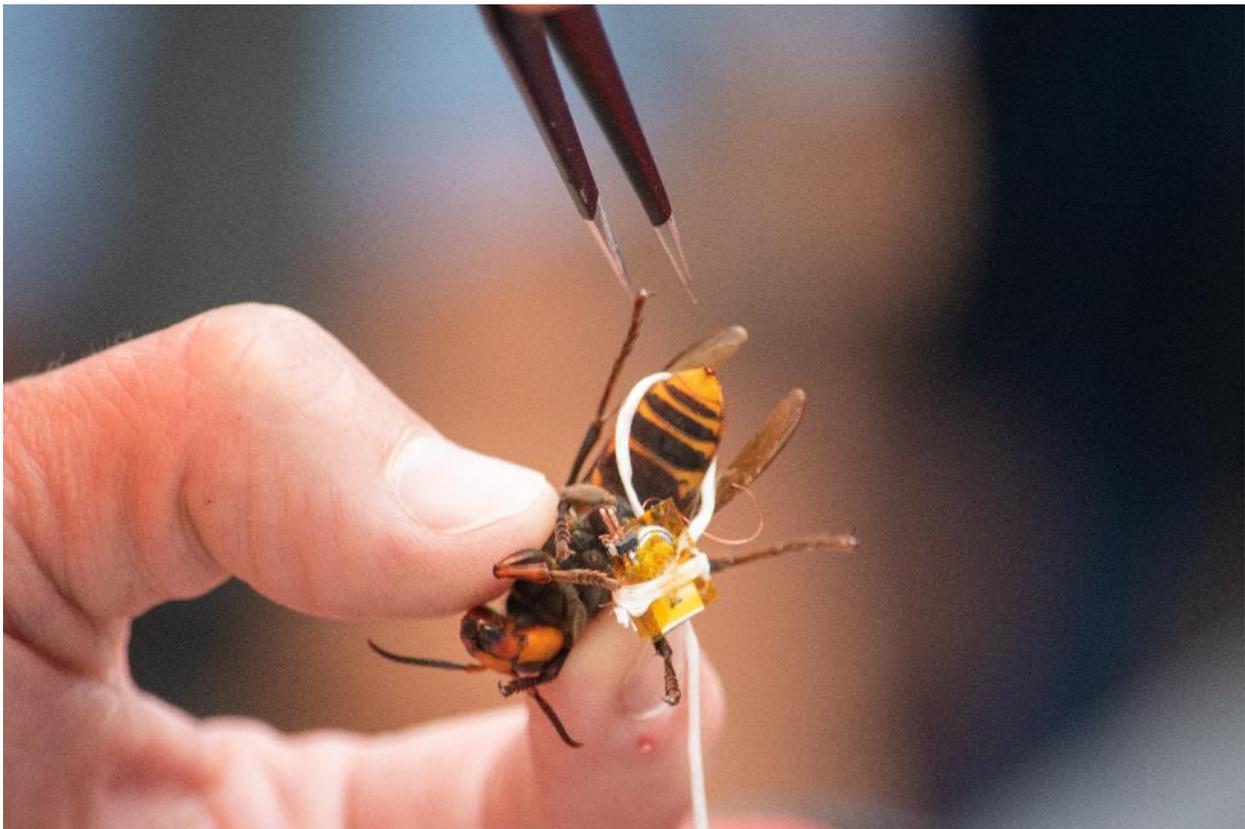
In addition to these confirmed sightings, we have several reports from neighbors in the area near Burk Road. While not included in the official count, they are probable sightings and we consider them in our response plans.

SECOND LIVE TRACKING ATTEMPT

On October 5 a resident captured a live Asian giant hornet and gave it to WSDA.

On October 6, WSDA arrived at the residence to attempt to tag and track the live Asian giant hornet back to its nest. Unfortunately, the tracking devices had a technical issue which could not be resolved that day. The hornet was taken out of the cooler briefly and fed strawberry jelly, which it seemed to like. It was then again placed in the cooler to keep it calm until the next day.

On October 7, WSDA returned to the site and Vikram Iyer, a researcher from the University of Washington came and brought new trackers. Activities of the day began later than planned due to heavy fog in the area. The new trackers functioned as designed and around noon WSDA was able to successfully tie the radio tag to the Asian giant hornet using dental floss.



As the team waited for the fog to lift, several neighbors came to watch the activities. Vikram advised those who had gathered that they could download an app to track the hornet using the Bluetooth feature on their cell phones. Several neighbors downloaded the app in anticipation of helping track the hornet.

Once the tracker was attached, the hornet was placed in a container and allowed to warm up. Based on suggestions from European counterparts dealing with a similar species, the hornet was placed in an apple tree (rather than the ground) as this allows hornets to take off from an elevated location. The hornet warmed up and crawled on an apple, groomed itself, and then took flight.



The team and neighbors tracked the hornet from tree to tree for about an hour before losing her signal in the forest. Both staff and several neighbors spent the remainder of the afternoon searching the area for the tracking signal (which would transmit for approximately 12 hours) but, unfortunately, it could not be located.

It was determined that radio transponders with a longer range and battery life would be extremely beneficial for future attempts and they have already been ordered.

WSDA will hold a press conference on Monday, October 12 at 11 a.m. The public can [watch the press conference live](#) on TVW. We will also post it on Facebook and YouTube once the press conference is over. Members of [the press can register to attend the press conference](#) live and ask questions.

WE STILL NEED YOUR REPORTS!

Every report of an Asian giant hornet sighting leads us closer to finding a nest. Asian giant hornet reports can be made at agr.wa.gov/hornets, hornets@agr.wa.gov, or by calling 1-800-443-6684. Remember – at this time of year it is more important to TRACK the hornets or capture them live rather than to kill them. When reporting, note the direction the hornet is flying as that provides very helpful information.



UPDATE FROM CANADA

Canada has placed traps north of the U.S./Canadian border near WSDA's latest detections.

Canada had also tested using protein traps late this summer and early fall. The protein traps did not attract anything (including local wasps) and they have since switched back to carbohydrate-based traps.

REMINDER: EMERGENCY HIVE ATTACK HOTLINE, FOR WASHINGTON MANAGED BEES ONLY

Reporting hive attacks can help WSDA track and eradicate Asian giant hornets. This emergency hotline is to be used **only by beekeepers** in the state of Washington who **witness Asian giant hornets attacking a managed hive** or near an apiary. When reporting, include the location, the flight direction of the hornet(s), and provide photo evidence if it can be safely obtained. Do not attempt to kill the hornet(s). Track, don't whack!

If you are experiencing a hive attack in the state of Washington call the emergency hive attack hotline at **360-902-1880**. Only call this emergency number if you are experiencing an active hive attack.

All non-hive attack sightings should be reported at agr.wa.gov/hornets, hornets@agr.wa.gov, or 1-800-443-6684.

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